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Appl. No. 10/613,007  
Amendment dated January 7, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of September 7, 2004

**- REMARKS/ARGUMENTS -**

Claims 1 to 12, 15 to 19, and 22 to 27 remain in the application.

The preamble of claim 7 has been slightly amended to add "in claim" after "as defined", as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 1 to 4, 7, 9 to 12, 17 to 19, 24, 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Newcomb (2,698,711).

Claims 8, 13, 15, 20 and 22 were rejected under U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Newcomb.

Claims 5, 6, 14, 16, 21, 23 and 26 were indicated as allowable by the Examiner.

As noted by the Examiner, Newcomb comprises a single inflatable bladder 26 adapted to be selectively inflated and/or deflated to close or open all the bleed passages 22 and 24 at once. Newcomb does not provide for the selective opening or closing of selected bleed passages only. All the bleed passages 22 and 24 are either closed or opened. Newcomb does not provide some modulation of the bleed valve operation to closely match the stall and surge characteristics of the compressors by varying the volume of air bleed from different locations around the circumference thereof.

In view of the foregoing, independent claims 1, 11, 17 and 24 are clearly patentable over Newcomb.

The remaining dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 11, 17 and 24.

Dependent claims 2 to 6, 8 and 10 have been slightly amended, in view of the amendments made to independent claim 1.

Claims 12, 15 and 16 have been made dependent from claim 11. Claims 18, 22 and 23 are now dependent from independent claim 17. Claim 19 is now dependent from claim 18. Claims 13, 14, 20 and 21 have been cancelled.

Claims 25, 26 and 27 have been slightly amended, in view of the changes made to independent claim 24.

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As indicated hereinabove, independent claims 1, 11, 17 and 24 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections is respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any further questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application can be expedited, as patentable subject matter has already been indicated.


Respectfully submitted,

Andreas ELEFThERIOU

By:

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Date

  
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

ROBERT MITCHELL, Reg. No. 25,007  
Name of person signing certification

  
Signature

January 7, 2005  
Date